BLACK MASK

VISAGGIO-CABRERA

KIM & KIM

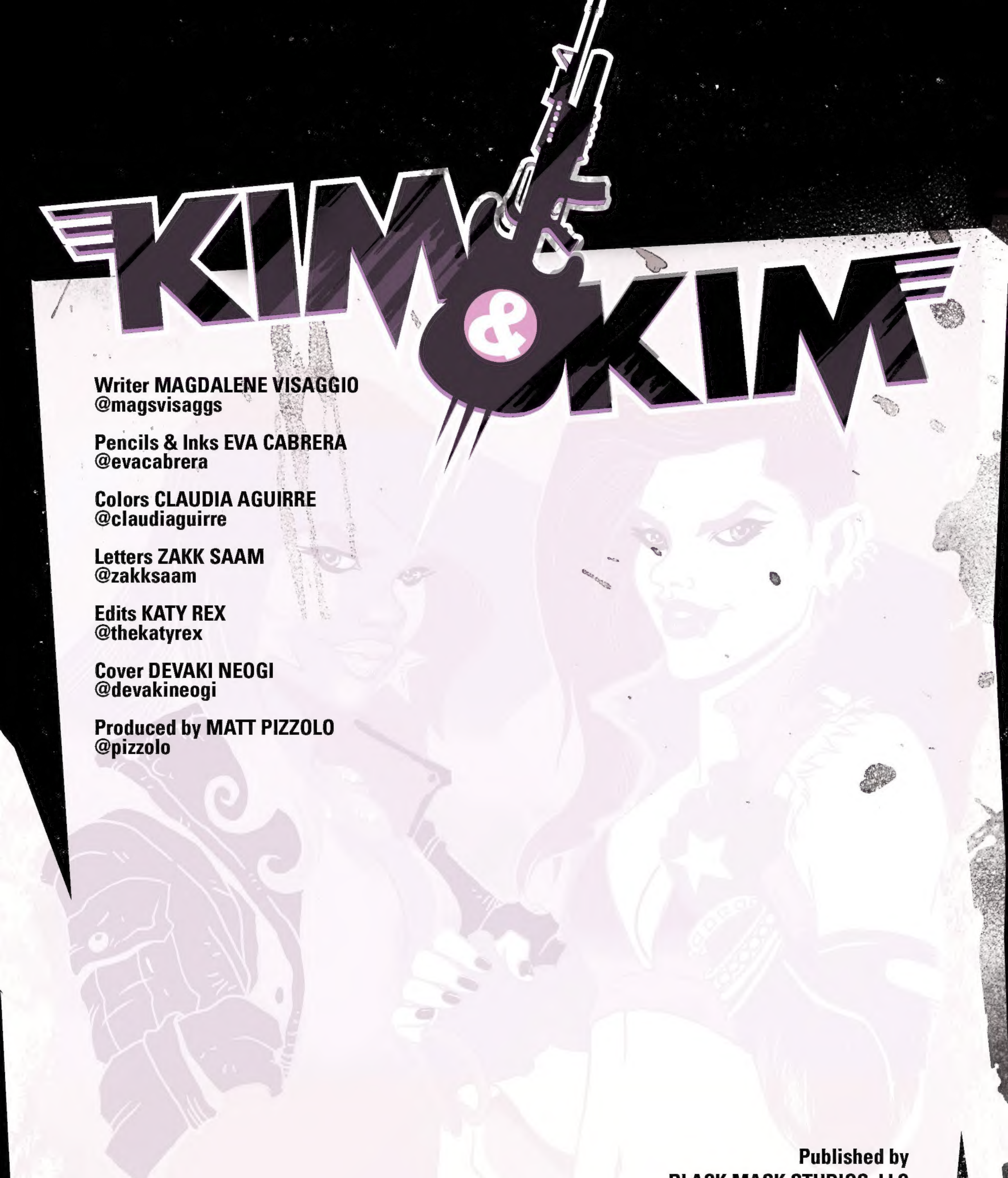
AGUIRRE-SAAM-REX

NO. 2

PINK

WHAT THE HE

KIM Q



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NECROMANCY IS DUMB AND GROSS.

BELIEVE ME. I COME FROM A LONG LINE OF PROBATE NECROMANCERS.

AND IN ADDITION TO BEING DUMB AND GROSS, IT'S PARTICULAR.

ONE LITTLE FUCK UP AND BOOM! SANDWORM.

I WAS TWENTY THE LAST TIME I EVEN ATTEMPTED IT.

IT DIDN'T END WELL.

WHATEVER.

I MEAN, WHO WANTS TO WASTE THEIR LIFE RAISING THE DEAD OVER INHERITANCE DISPUTES?

THE WORLD IS SO MUCH BRIGHTER THAN THAT.

RIGHT. SO THIS IS THE UNDERWATER CITY OF QUI-HO'OLO IN DIMENSION 8812. IMPORTANT FACTOIDS:

1) 87 FATHOMS DOWN OR SOMETHING?

2) HAS A HISTORY OF BEING A DAY-GLO WAYPOINT FOR NE'ER-DO-WELLS LIKE LADY BABYLON (THE PERSON WE'RE TOTALLY LOOKING FOR).

3) I HAVE NO IDEA HOW DEEP A "FATHOM" IS.

4) THE OCEAN IS MADE OF MILD HALLUCINOGENS. SO THAT'S COOL.

WHUMP

I WANT TO TRY AGAIN, FIORELLA. TO MAKE THIS WORK.

IT'S TOO LATE, PRANZI. IT'S TOO LATE.

SHIT!

SMASH

THIS IS NOT A BOUNTY CHASE.

THIS IS MY BEST FRIEND AND BUSINESS PARTNER BEING STUPID.

GET THE HELL OUT OF MY ESTABLISHMENT!

IT'S AN OPEN-AIR *RESORT BAR* WITH A *SURF-BOARD* HANGING ON THE WALL. "ESTABLISHMENT" IS A STRETCH.

BUT ALRIGHT. I DON'T WANT ANY MORE TROUBLE.

KAPOWSKI

FRIGGIN' PSYCH!

REALLY, REALLY STUPID.

OH YOU LITTLE--

NOBODY COMES INTO *MY BAR* AND DISRESPECTS ME IN FRONT OF MY CUSTOMERS!

...WHEN I GET MY SONS INVOLVED.

BOYS!

LET'S SEE HOW MUCH FIGHT YOU'VE GOT IN YOU...

LET'S.

AND I DUNNO, IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THIS REALLY EASY SUMMONING. I'M LIKE 18. IT'S MY ***FIRST JOB.***

SO IT'S LIKE, OKAY, I DREW THE ***SUMMONING CIRCLE*** AND I HAVE THE OCULARUM, RIGHT? IT'S THIS ***FOCUSING PRISM*** THING. MAGIC SHIT. IDK HOW IT WORKS OR ANYTHING.

EVERYTHING IS JUST THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.

HOTEL

BUT LITERALLY I KNOCK OVER A CANDLE AND THE WHOLE ***SUMMONING CIRCLE CATCHES FIRE.***

BUT THAT'S A ***THING,*** TOO. THAT'S MAGIC THAT DOES SOMETHING. SO INSTEAD OF SUMMONING DEAR DEPARTED AUNT TILDA...

KABLOEY. AND THERE'S BLOOD ***EVERY-WHERE.***

AND NECROMANCY IS STUPID ANYWAY. S'LIKE, WHO EVEN ***CARES?***

I JUST WANTED TO BE LIKE DJUNA. AND WE ***BOTH*** GOT OUT.

GIVE ME THAT.

CAN WE NOT JUST HANG OUT HERE WHILE YOU SMOKE? YOU KNOW I'M ON THE ***RUN,*** RIGHT?

POINK!

IT'S LIKE WE AREN'T EVEN ***TRYING*** TO FIND LADY BABYLON.

OR DO YOU STILL THINK YOU KNOW "EXACTLY" WHERE SHE IS?

HARSH.

I'M SORRY. BUT I DIDN'T *LIE* EXACTLY.

YOU SAID "I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHERE LADY BABYLON IS."

OK FINE, I WAS LYING IF YOU'RE HUNG UP ON THE "TECHNICAL DEFINITION" OF LYING.

MY AUNT DJUNA USED TO ROLL WITH LADY BABYLON. AND I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO KINDA RIFF ON THAT UNTIL I FOUND HER.

LIKE, LEVERAGE CONNECTIONS AND SHIT.

KIM, DO YOU *HAVE* TO--

YES, SHUT UP.

OK, SO DJUNA AND MINA, HER GIRLFRIEND OR SOMETHING, USED TO ADVENTURE ALL OVER SPACE AND TIME AS BADASSES-FOR-HIRE.

S'WHERE I GOT THE *IDEA.*

IMPORTANT THING IS THEY SPENT A LOT OF TIME WITH ***LADY BABYLON*** AND HER ***VIGILANTE FREEDOM TRAIN,*** FIGHTING BASTARD HUMAN TRAFFICKERS LIKE EL SCORCHO.

ALSO SHE USED TO SCORE ME WEED IN HIGH SCHOOL.

SO WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST ASK DJUNA FOR HELP? SEEMS LIKE SHE'D HAVE BEEN USEFUL IN HELPING ME GET BACK HOME.

SHE DIED A FEW YEARS AGO. FIGHTING LIKE AN ***EVIL WIZARD*** OR SOMETHING.

SMASH

GET THE HELL OUT OF MY ESTABLISHMENT!

WAS THAT THE OTHER KIM?

GOD, ***PROBABLY,*** BUT WE SHOULD CHECK.

HOPE I GOT MY FAKE INSURANCE CARD ON ME OR THIS IS REALLY GONNA BLOW.

THESE ARE "THE BOYS?" THIS CANDY BRIGADE?

THAT WAS HURTFUL.

THE BOYS, AKA THE CANDY BRIGADE!

NOW WE'LL BE HURTFUL! TO YOU!

THWAK!

DODGE!

THUNK

UGH!

KRAK

TEACH YOU TO DISRESPECT MY DAD!

FUCK.

KIM FRICKIN' QUATRO.

I THOUGHT WE WERE GONNA KEEP THIS *QUIET.*

WELL *NOW* WE DON'T *HAVE* TO.

HEY MAN, CAN I..?

OH, YEAH, TOTALLY.

SORRY. I MEAN I GOTTA--

NO IT'S COOL.

KIM, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

I WAS *TRYING* TO GET INFORMATION FROM MR. NICE SCARY BARTENDER MAN HERE BUT HE DECIDED TO *THROW ME INTO A FRIGGIN' TABLE.*

OVER PRACTICALLY *NOTHING!*

JFC. WHAT DOES "PRACTICALLY NOTHING" EVEN *MEAN?*

SHE *DISRESPECTED ME!* SHE CALLED ME A *FRAUD* AND A *LIAR!*

I WAS A PROFESSIONAL RING RACER FOR TWENTY YEARS! I WILL NOT TAKE DISRESPECT FROM KNOW-IT-ALL FANS!

I WAS JUST TRYING TO MAKE *FRIENDLY CONVERSATION!*

BUT YOU SURE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT RACING FOR A *PROFESSIONAL.*

LOOK. MAYBE THERE'S A WAY WE CAN RESOLVE THIS? WE PAY FOR THE DAMAGE AND HEAD ON OUR WAY.

SIX-THOUSAND DOLLARS.

HEY, LET'S NOT GET *GREEDY--*

I'LL SHOW YOU GREEDY.

PROBABLY TWO MORE BAR FIGHTS WITH THE SAME GUYS LATER.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS FUCKING PROBLEM WAS. I WAS ***MAKING CONVERSATION.*** BUTTERING HIM UP SO I COULD ASK ABOUT ***LADY STUPID BABYLON.***

MOCKING HIM WAS ***DEF*** A ***GREAT WAY*** TO DO THAT.

IT WAS A FRIENDLY DISPUTE.

YOU ACCUSED HIM OF BEING A ***FRAUD,*** KIM.

WHATEVER, I WAS TRYING TO LOOK ***KNOWLEDGEABLE*** ABOUT A SHARED INTEREST-- ***WHICH HELLO I TOTALLY AM--*** AND ESTABLISH BONAFIDES, JEEZ.

WELL, YOU SCREWED WHATEVER SHOT WE ***HAD*** HERE.

I'M JUST GLAD ***TOM*** HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE GUY OFF.

TWENTY-THOUSAND GONE. WHATEVER.

IT'S NOT LIKE THIS WAS GONNA GET US ANYWHERE ANYWAY. JUST ANOTHER WASTE OF TIME.

I'M NEVER GOING TO GET HOME.

IT'S BEEN DAYS, AND WE'RE NO CLOSER TO FINDING LADY BABYLON.

I COULD JUST STAY HERE, RIGHT? SWIM OUT INTO THE DISTANCE. LIVE IN THE HALLUCINOGENIC HAZE AND FORGET.

BUT EL SCORCHO WOULD PROBABLY STILL FIND ME. I REALLY STOLE WAY TOO MUCH MONEY FOR HIM TO JUST LET IT GO.

FUCK.

WHAT?

HEY. LOOK. THERE'S ONE LAST THING WE CAN TRY. I WAS REALLY HOPING IT WOULDN'T COME TO THIS.

WE ASK MY DEAD AUNT DJUNA.

I HOPE WE HAVEN'T EATEN THROUGH ALL YOUR STOLEN MOB MONEY, BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME SUPPLIES.

WE MIGHT HAVE, THOUGH.

THE CATALANS' GIANT ORBITAL DEATH PLATFORM, IN ORBIT OVER VESSUS SECUNDO.

FURIOUS QUATRO
KIM Q'S STUPID DAD

DOOO YOUUU YOU! FEEEEEEEL LIKE I DO

FURIOUS, EXCUSE ME--

OH GOOD. IT'S MY TWO FAVORITE PEOPLE: FUCKUP AND WEIRD, EFFEMINATE FUCKUP.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU TWO HAVE *DONE*, SAAR? COLUMBUS?

ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE GOTTEN MY STUPID KID CAUGHT *UP* IN?

HEY, YOU *TOLD* ME TO TOSS HER A BOUNTY OPPORTUNITY. I DIDN'T MAKE HER *STEAL* IT.

I WAS TRYING TO *HELP OUT* LIKE YOU ASKED--

A *BOUNTY OPPORTUNITY*, NOT AN EXCLUSIVE, ILLEGAL CONTRACT FROM ONE OF THE DEADLIEST CRIME ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ENTIRE GODDAMN OMNIVERSE!

NOW CALLING...

SHIT.

Tini's Fashion & Magical Supply
LET'S GET WITCHIN'!
GEEZ. ARE YOU SURE THIS IS IT?
Gothic
YUPPERINO. CANDLES. CEREMONIAL BLADES. SHITLOADS OF EYELINER. LIKE, A CHOKER...
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO COMMIT UNSPEAKABLE CRIMES AGAINST GOD, WHO HATH ORDAINED THAT MAN MIGHT DIE AND NEVER INTENDED THAT WE SHOULD CROSS THAT DIVIDE.
Tattoos
TATTOO
PINUP
WHO THE HELL WOULD BE CALLING ME?
Bzzz Bzzz
I KNOW LIKE THREE PEOPLE.
OH SHIT IT'S DAD
DAG, FORGET THAT.
=SIGH=
CALL DECLINED
YEAH, SHE'S STILL PRETTY PISSED AT YOU.
PROBABLY WHY SHE STOLE THE BOUNTY TO BEGIN WITH.
JOAQUIN'S ANGER AT ME IS GOING TO GET HIM KILLED. I NEED YOU TO FIND AND STOP HIM BEFORE EL SCORCHO DOES.
THAT'S SUCH A STUPID FUCKING NAME.

LOOK, FAR BE IT FROM ME TO QUESTION THE CRAZY LADIES WHO ARE DRAGGING ME ACROSS SPACE AND TIME IN SEARCH OF LADY BABYLON, WHO I AM INCREASINGLY WORRIED MIGHT BE A FIGMENT OF MY PEOPLE'S OPPRESSED IMAGINATIONS...

...BUT WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE TRYING TO **ACCOMPLISH** OUT HERE?

GOOD OLD-FASHIONED ***NECROMANCY,*** TOMMY-BOY. IF WE CAN'T FIND ANY LEADS AMONG THE LIVING, WE'LL CHECK WITH THE ***DEAD.***

I MEAN I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID NECROMANCY WAS FOR INHERITANCE STUFF.

CANDLES

PROBATE NECROMANCY, YEAH. BUT NECROMANCY ITSELF IS MAINLY DIVINATORY.

AND SINCE DJUNA AND BABYLON USED TO BE LIKE ***REALLY*** TIGHT, I FIGURE WHO BETTER TO ASK?

AND DON'T WORRY. I'M SURE SHE WON'T SCREW IT UP.

THIS TIME.

AND HERE, SLAP THIS SHIT ON.

WHAT IS IT?

EYELINER. FOR THE AMBIANCE. IT HELPS.

OK, GET IN THE CIRCLE SO YOU DON'T GET SUCKED INTO THE ABYSS.

ABYSS?

YEAH. IT'S PRETTY MUCH *LITERALLY* HELL?

日々くるしい

SHIT WHAT'S HAPP--

KIM YOU'VE GOTTA *STOP*--

I CAN'T!

MOTHER OF GOD.

WHAT THE HELL...?

I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. SHIT.

I SCREWED IT UP.

WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE DONE THAT COULD HAVE CAUSED THIS?

SANDWORM.

I, UH, I THINK I BROUGHT A SANDWORM BACK ON ACCIDENT.

ALRIGHT LET'S GO.

COME ON, MUCHACHOS. LET'S GO WRECK THIS SANDWORM!

I MEAN I HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG WE'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS BUT I FIGURE IF WE FOLLOW THE GIANT SLITHERING TRAIL WE CAN PROBABLY CATCH UP.

TOM, YOU'RE WITH ME. KIM?

"TAKE THE BIKE."

WOW?

HEY KIM--

GET YOUR HEAD BACK IN THE VAN YOU STUPID CEPHALO-PERSON.

WHAT?

JUST YELLING AT TOM. YOU READY?

TOTES READY.

LET'S ROCKNROLL.

SKREEEEEEE

BRATA BRATA

BRATA BRATA

BRATA BRATA

THIS.

CRAP LIKE THIS IS WHY I GOT OUT OF NECROMANCY.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA THE WEIRD SHIT YOU FIND IN THE NECROSPHERE? AND HOW EASY IT IS TO DRAG IT BACK WITH YOU?

SO FRIGGIN'. EASY.

FIRST, LIKE, SERIOUSLY PEOPLE ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO DICK AROUND IN THE AFTERLIFE.

AND WE GET ALL SHOCKED WHEN IT ENDS BADLY?

JFC.

AND SECOND? I DON'T EVEN NEED A SECOND POINT. THIS IS SUCH A STUPID THING TO DO.

AND WE RISK ALL THIS, ALL DAY EVERY DAY, BECAUSE WE'RE THAT CONCERNED WHO GETS GREAT AUNT AGATHA'S CHINA.

ALL TO GET A LITTLE INFORMATION.

HUH.

BRATA BRATA BRATA BRATA BRATA BRATA BRATA BRATA BRATA BRATA BRATA BRATA BRATA BRATA

I WILL SEND YOU BACK TO HELL WHICH IS ACTUALLY THE PLACE I BROUGHT YOU FROM EARLIER TODAY.

HEY KIM?

JESUS WHAT?

HEY, I DON'T WANNA BE THAT GUY BUT I DON'T THINK THIS IS GONNA WORK?

WE HAVE A GUITAR AND A MACHINE GUN TO FIGHT THAT THING.

WE HAVE TO **FIX THIS.** WE HAVE TO **DO WHATEVER WE CAN** IF IT TAKES EVERY DAMN BULLET I **HAVE!**

THERE IS LITERALLY ZERO CHANCE YOU HAVE ANYWHERE CLOSE TO ENOUGH BULLETS.

LIKE MAYBE WE SHOULD LEAVE THIS TO THE ARMY?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE *TO* DO. ALL I HAD TO DO WAS PERFORM A *SIMPLE SUMMONING* OF A FRIENDLY SPIRIT.

IT'S LIKE THE *FIRST DAMN THING* YOU LEARN AS A NECROMANCER.

AND I COULDN'T EVEN DO *THAT!*

PSSSSSH. *WHATEVER.* YOU WALKED AWAY FROM THIS LIKE A *MILLION FUCKING YEARS AGO.*

AND GOOD THING, TOO, BECAUSE IF *THIS* IS ONE OF THE OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS *HOLY LIVING GOD* YOU DON'T NEED THAT IN YOUR LIFE.

FUCK NECROMANCY.

EXACTLY! *FUCK NECROMANCY.*

YOU'RE AWESOME AND YOU'RE MY PARTNER AND TOGETHER WE CAN DO ANYTHING, EXCEPT PROBABLY STOP THIS GIANT SANDWORM YOU UNLEASHED.

BUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT.

HOLY BALLS I KNOW HOW TO BEAT IT.

IT'S A *NECROTIC* MONSTER.

AND THAT MEANS WE NEED A *NECROTIC* SOLUTION.

I HATE THIS AND I HATE YOU.

I WAS NEVER A GOOD NECROMANCER. NECROMANCY IS QUIET. I SPECIALIZE IN LOUD, AND IT TURNS OUT YOU CAN MAKE THINGS LOUDER WITH AMPLIFIERS.

ARE YOU GUYS OKAY BACK THERE? BECAUSE I REALLY WANNA BE ABLE TO KILL YOU *MYSELF* LATER.

CANDLES

TOM, KEEP IT STEADY! WE'RE DEALING WITH HORRIFYING FORCES HERE!

SEE, MAGIC IS REALLY JUST ENERGY. ENERGY IS A **THING.** AND THINGS CAN BE MACGUYVERED.

WOW, REALLY, THAT'S *SO* HELPING ME STAY CALM.

CHANNEL IT INTO THE GUITAR, TURN IT INTO SOUND...

QUANTUM JAMS ARE GO.

AND LET IT RIP.

TURN THAT SHIT DOWN

IS THIS NORMAL?

LIGHTNING WOMEN COMPLAINING ABOUT THE NOISE AREN'T A NORMAL PART OF THE NECROMANTIC PROCESS, NO.

THAT LOOKS LIKE...

...MY AUNT DJUNA?

KIM. LEAVE THAT POOR SANDWORM ALONE.

DJUNA, I--

IT CAN WAIT. LET'S SET DOWN AND HAVE A REAL TALK. ISN'T THAT WHY YOU CALLED ME?

SANDWORMS ARE GOOD PEOPLE. **EDGAR** THERE WAS PROBABLY JUST REALLY CONFUSED AND FREAKED OUT. YOU GUYS DIDN'T HAVE TO GO **SHOOTING** AT HIM.

THAT CERTAINLY WASN'T CONSTRUCTIVE.

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE A SMOKE.

I DON'T KNOW I WANT A CIGARETTE FROM THE AFTERLIFE.

THAT'S PROBABLY SMART.

I JUST...DON'T UNDERSTAND. HOW DID YOU EVEN GET HERE? I TOTALLY BOTCHED THE SUMMONING. I'M **TERRIBLE** AT THIS.

YOU'RE **HERE.** YOU'RE A **SOLID HUMAN PERSON MADE OF CARBON AND SHIT.**

BUT THAT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE. THE DEAD CAN'T PASS THROUGH THE VEIL ON THEIR OWN, AND BESIDES--

LET ME STOP YOU RIGHT THERE.

I'M NOT DEAD. I NEVER WAS.

SEE ALL THAT? IT'S THE WORLD, RIGHT? EVERY DIMENSION OUT THERE IS JUST MORE **WORLD.**

AND THAT'S THE **NECROSPHERE.** IT'S JUST ANOTHER DIMENSION.

JUST MORE **WORLD.**

SO HOW'D--

I HEARD YOU, KIMMY. YOU MAY HAVE OPENED UP THE WRONG DOOR, BUT I WAS ABLE TO HITCH A RIDE.

I AM SO CONFUSED RIGHT NOW.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU'RE LOOKING FOR LADY BABYLON, RIGHT?

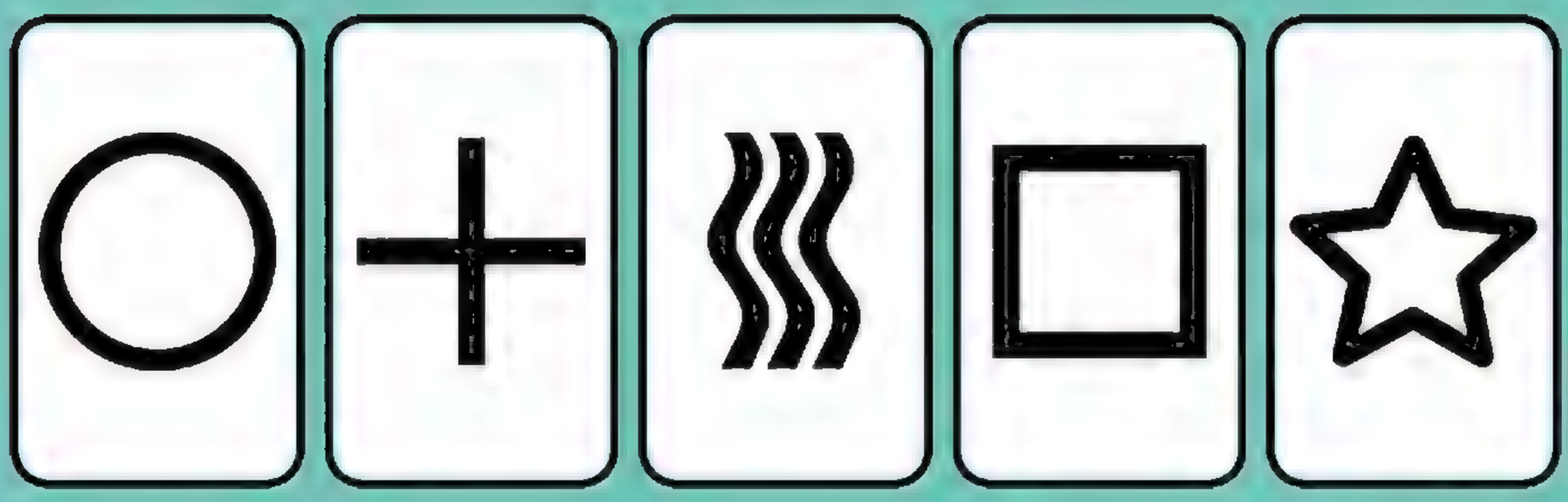
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, HONEY.

YOU JUST FOUND HER.

NEXT: NEVER LOOK BACK!

TINI HOWARD DEVAKI NEOGI

The SKEPTICS



A stylish, Cold War-era adventure about politics and ethics and how punk rock it is to be the smartest person in the room.

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-COMICOSITY

GOD KILLER

TOMORROW'S ASHES

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AUTUMN 2016

"There is, unfortunately, no better time for a comic book like BLACK to be announced and created than right now, because the visual of the young Black man wearing a hoodie and being confronted by the gun(s) of police officers is burned into our collective conscience. It is the image of one of the most prevalent and gross generalizations of our times."
-COMIC BOOK RESOURCES

OSAJYEFO • SMITH 3

BLACK

"A young black person gets shot by police. This time, he gets up, discovering that he's more powerful than he ever could have imagined."
-io9

IGLE
RANDOLPH
LITT
STERN
SHARPE

BLACK MASK

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"